(c) whether the Secretary made any discussions with the Pakistan authorities on Kashmir;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Pakistan has raised at various times certain conditions and pre-conditions pertaining to the ground situation in J&K and the two non-papers handed over in January 1994 for the holding of talks with India. Government have repeatedly conveyed to Pakistan our readiness for meaningful talks, formal or informal, with or without any agenda and at any time. Setting of conditions or pre-conditions for such talks does not in our view, constitute a positive approach.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Mediation of U.N. Secretary-General to Hold Talks Between India and Pakistan

33. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that Pakistan had again urged the UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali to mediate or arronge "proximity" talks in its dispute with India over Kashmir.

(b) if so, whether Government have got any information about Mr. Ghalis response thereto; and

(c) if so, what is Governments reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) Government have seen reports to the effect that Pakistan has repeatedly urged the UN Secretary General to play a mediatory role in the Kashmir issue. Government are of the view that all differences between India and Pakistan, including aspects relating to J&K issue, should be resolved peacefully and through bilateral negotiations in accordance with the Simla Agreement and there can be no role of any sort for any third party.

Smuggling of Enriched Plutonium from Erstwhile Soviet Union to Pakistan

34. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what follow up action has been taken by Government on the alleged smuggling of weapon's grade enriched plutonium from erstwhile Soviet Union to Pakistan posing a serious threat not only to the country but the whole world; and

(b) What are the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government have brought to the notice of foreign countries inculding Russia that Pakistan is sustaining a weapons-oriented nuclear programme through clandestine acquisition of material and technology from abroad.

There is a greater awareness internationally regarding Pakistan's clandestine programme in this sphere. The Russian Government have also conveyed to us its principled position that Russia is strongly apposed to the proliferation of nuclear material and that Russia would be endeavouring to improve upon its existitng system of providing security for nuclear material.

Russia favours India in Peace-keeping Opesations CIS

35. SHR V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia is in favour of India's participation in peacekeeping operations in the territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and backs India for a permanent Membership of the UN Security Council; and